

Message Text

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43

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 A-01 SY-04 ABF-01 /021 W

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R 161037Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2391

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 163

DEPT FOR FBO, NEA/EX, A/SY/FO

BEIRUT FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, AFSP, SY

SUBJ: PROTECTION FROM FLYING GLASS

1. DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN NO FEWER THAN SIX BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TERRORIST GROUPS. TARGETS FOR THESE BOMBINGS WERE THE U.S. EXHIBIT AT THE DAMASCUS FAIR GROUNDS, THE PROPOSED USIS OFFICE BUILDING, THE OFFICES OF NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY, AN OFFICE OF THE SYRIAN G-2 (SECRET POLICE), THE JORDANIAN EMBASSY AND THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY. DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER OFFICE IN ALEPPO WAS ALSO BOMBED. PERSONAL INJURIES SUFFERED FROM THE BOMBINGS WERE GENERALLY CAUSED BY SHATTERED GLASS.

2. THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER HAS INCLUDED IN HIS LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THIS EMBASSY THE INSTALLATION OF SHATTER RESISTANT FILM (SUCH AS SCOTCH TINT, THE 3M PRODUCT) WITH A VIEW TO LESSENING THE POSSIBILITY OF INJURIES FROM FLYING GLASS SHOULD THE EMBASSY SUFFER A BOMBING BY TERRORISTS OR DURING AN AIR RAID IN THE EVEN OF WAR (A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN THE EMBASSY NEIGHBORHOOD WERE HIT DURING AIR ATTACKS DURING THE OCTOBER WAR).

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3. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED TO APPLY SHATTER RESISTANT FILM TO ALL

THE GLASS IN THE BUILDING, I.E., INTERIOR GLASS DOOR PANES AND TRANSOMS AS WELL AS EXTERIOR WINDOWS. MEASUREMENT OF THE CHANCERY INDICATES THAT THERE ARE 110 SQUARE METERS OF EXTERIOR GLASS AND 30 SQUARE METERS OF INTERIOR GLASS TOTALLING 140 SQUARE METERS. THE 3M COMPANY IN BEIRUT, WHICH INSTALLED SIMILAR MATERIAL IN THE CHANCERY IN BEIRUT HAS QUOTED A PRICE OF DOLS 22 PER SQUARE METER FOR THE NECESSARY MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE DOLS 3,080 IN ORDER THAT THE EMBASSY MAY COMPLY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RSO AND PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR ITS PERSONNEL FROM THE DANGERS OUTLINED ABOVE.
MURPHY

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